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Catrinar

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[54] **CHAIR WITH SELF STORABLE TRAY**

[76] Inventor: **Thomas J. Catrinar**, 7000 Ten Mile, Apt. 610, Center Line, Mich. 48015

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[51] **Int. Cl.**[6] **A47B 39/00**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **297/146**; 297/154; 297/173

[58] **Field of Search** 297/146, 150, 297/154, 162, 173, 174

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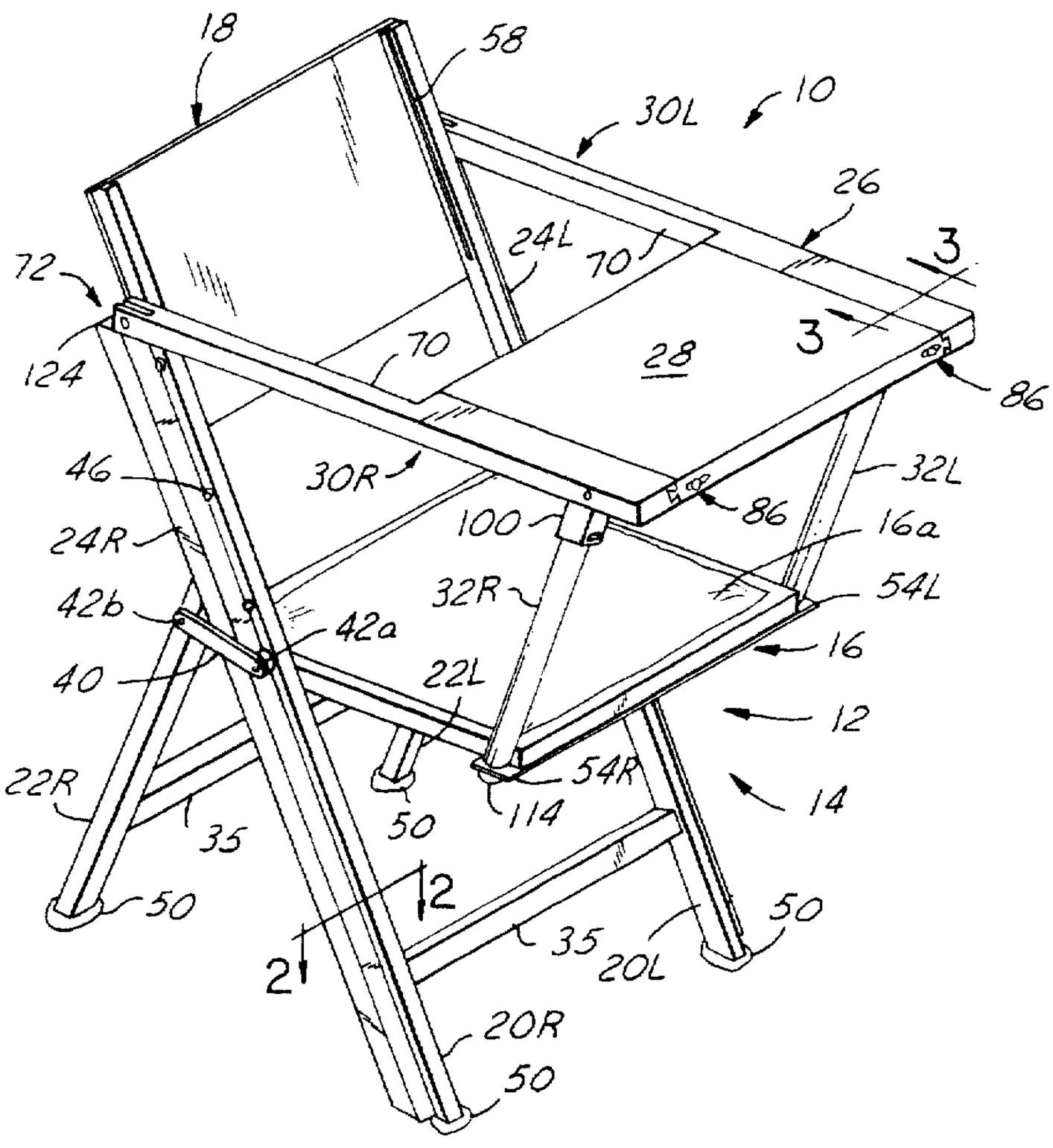
Primary Examiner—Peter R. Brown

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Peter D. Keefe

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A chair with self storable tray is composed of a chair component and a tray component. The chair component is composed of a chair, preferably folding, having a chair seat, chair back, a pair of front legs, a pair of rear legs, and a sheath. The tray component includes a pair of articulated arms, each composed of a first arm segment, a second arm segment and a pivot therebetween. The first and second arm segments are slidably received into a respective sheath. A tray is slidably interconnected with the second arm segments. Located within each of the second arm segments is a support rod which is pivotal from a received position to a support position wherein it is engaged with the chair seat. In operation, a user pulls upon the tray component so that it raises up from behind the chair back, wherein the articulated arms slide outwardly with respect to the sheaths until the pivots thereof are exposed. The user than pivots the second arm segments in relation to the first arm segments so that the tray is located at the front of the chair, while the support rods fall and are seatingly engaged with respect to the chair seat so as to thereby provide support for the tray. The user may slide the tray off the second arm segments to sit upon the chair and then slide it back on.

20 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets



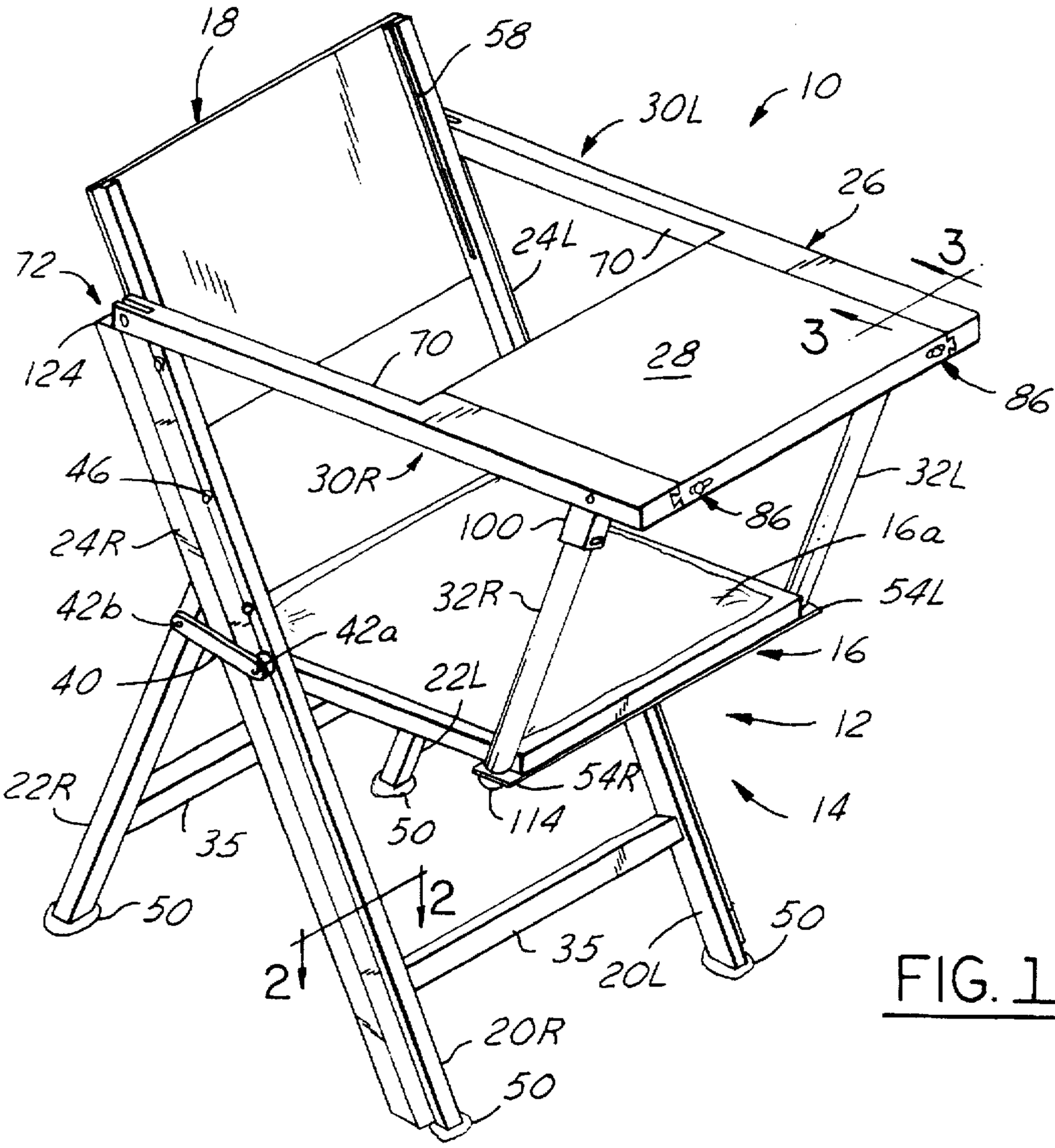


FIG. 1

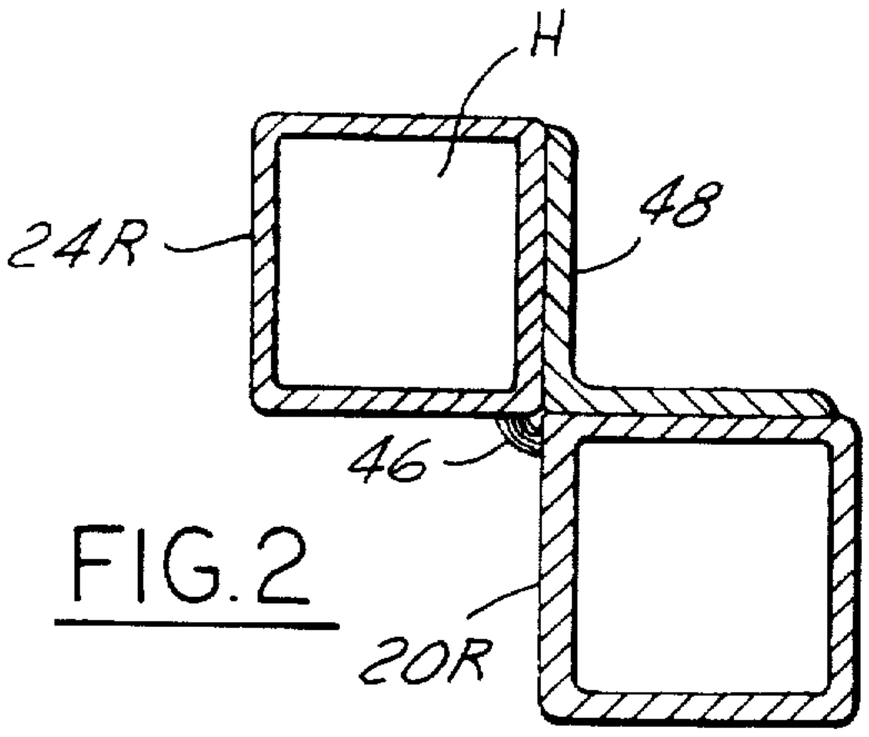


FIG. 2

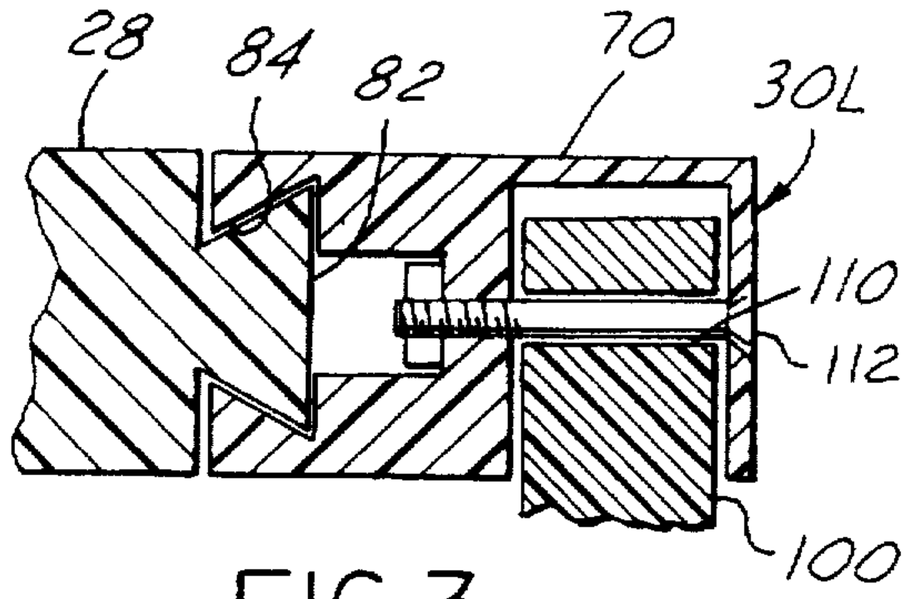


FIG. 3

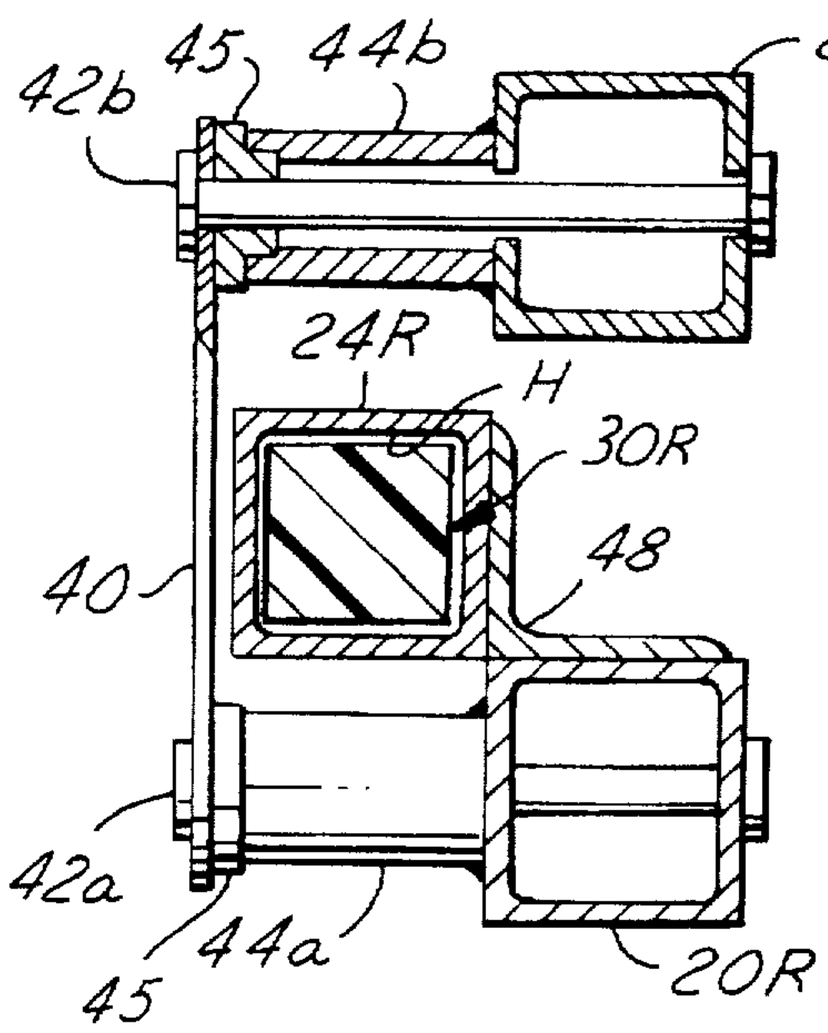


FIG. 7

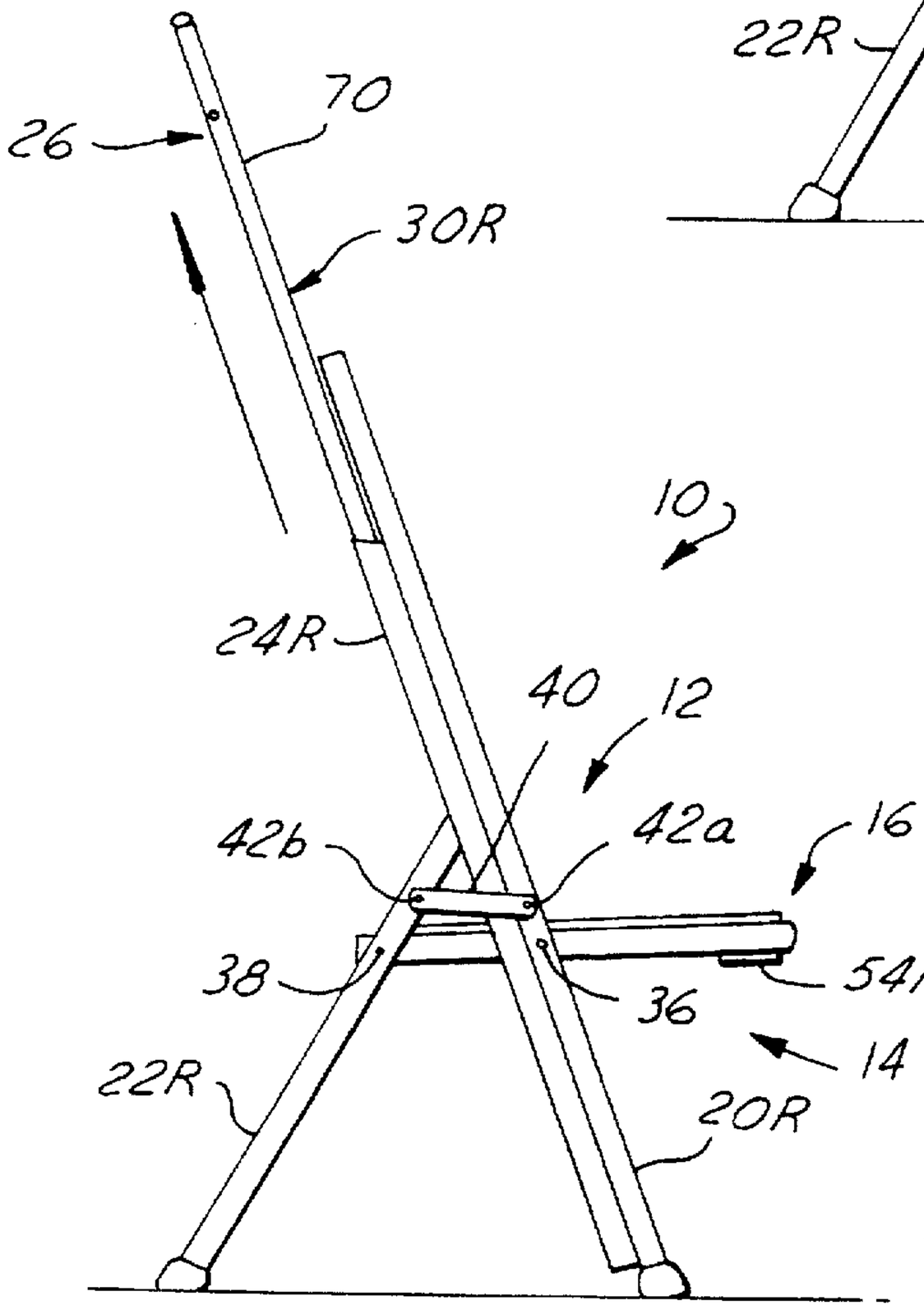


FIG. 4

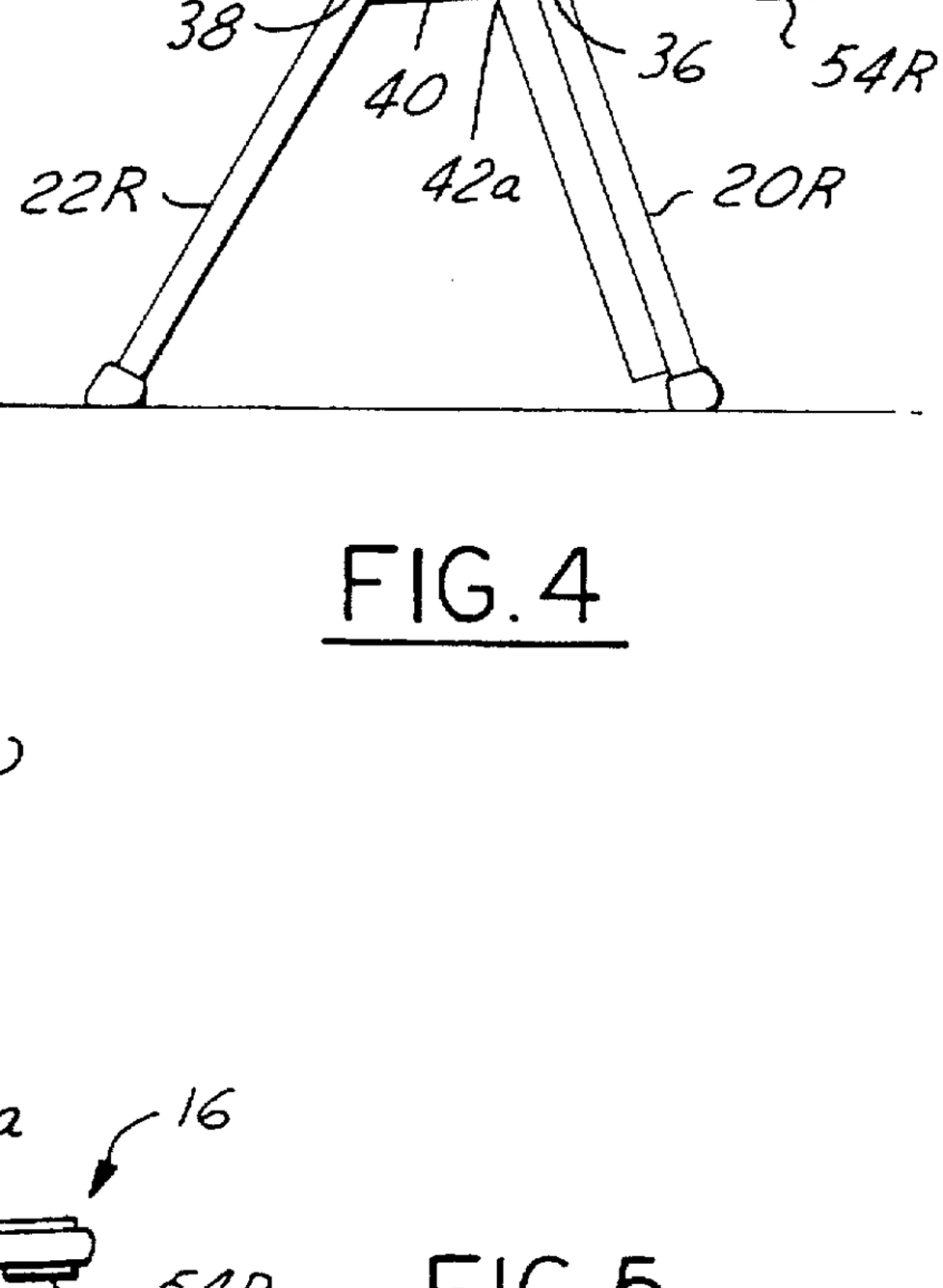


FIG. 5

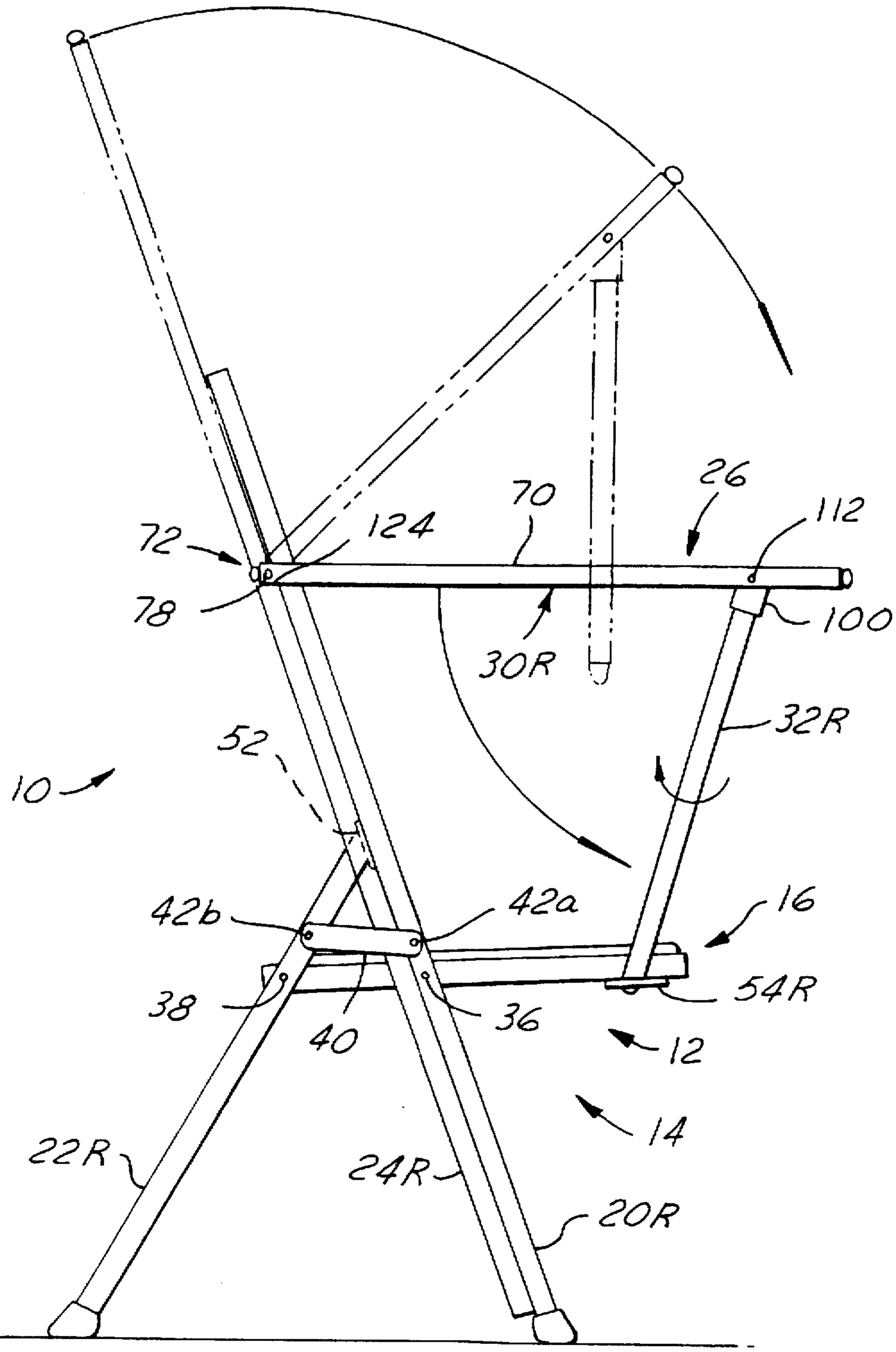

72
124
70
26
112
78
30R
100
32R
52
10
42b
42a
16
38
40
36
54R
12
14
22R
24R
20R

FIG.6

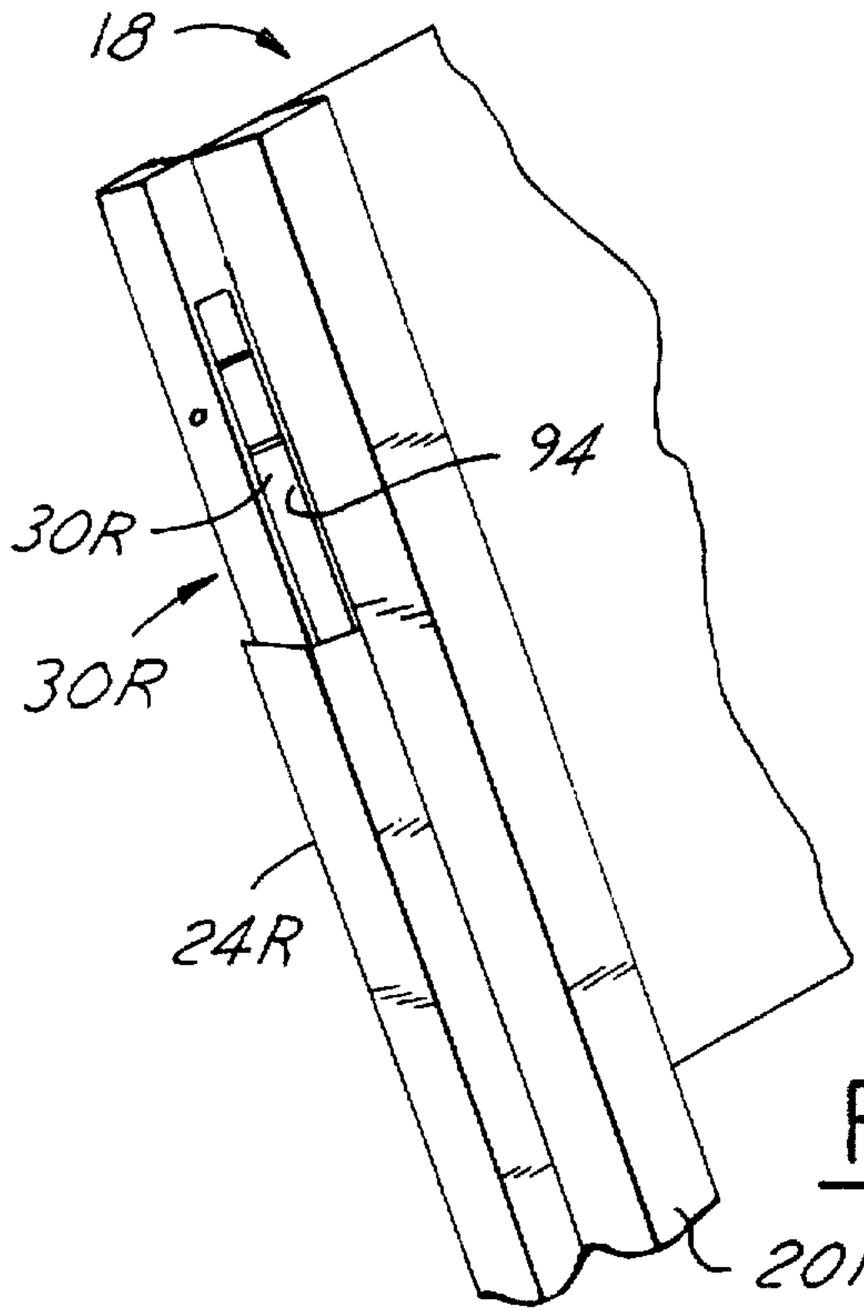


FIG.8

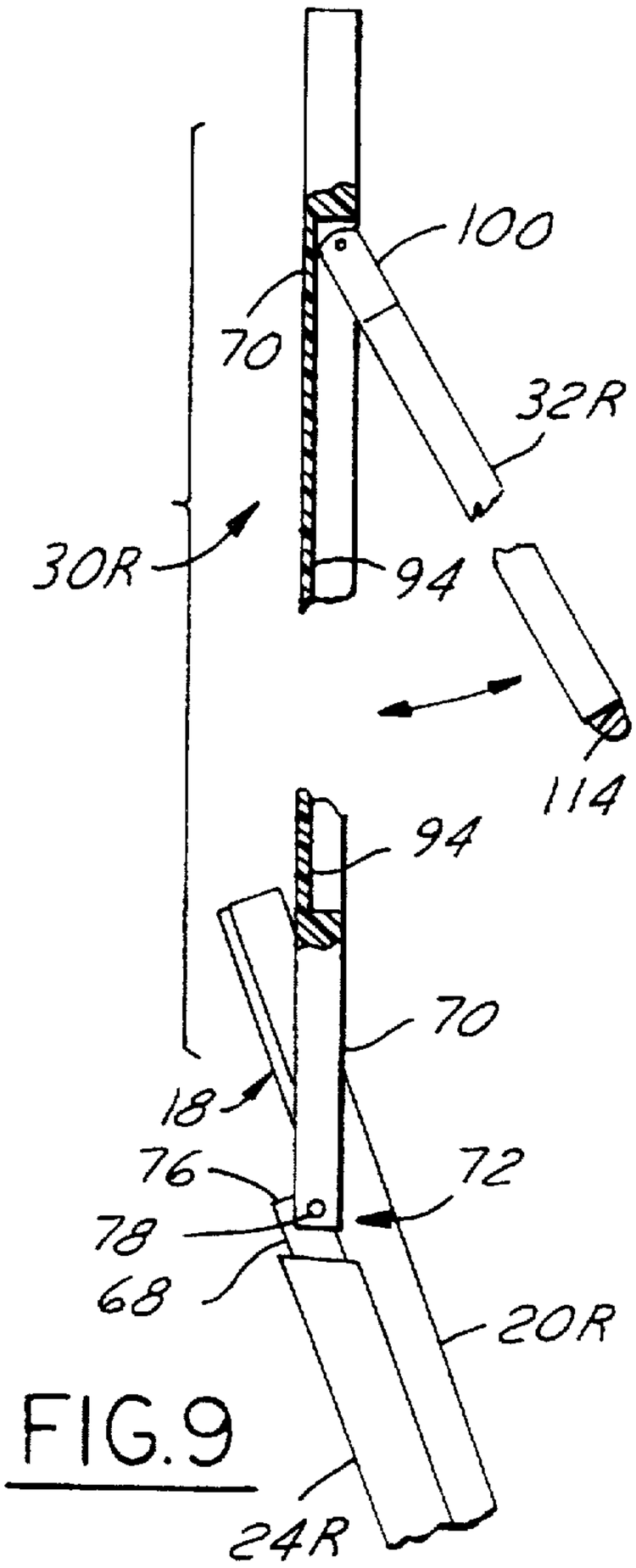


FIG.9

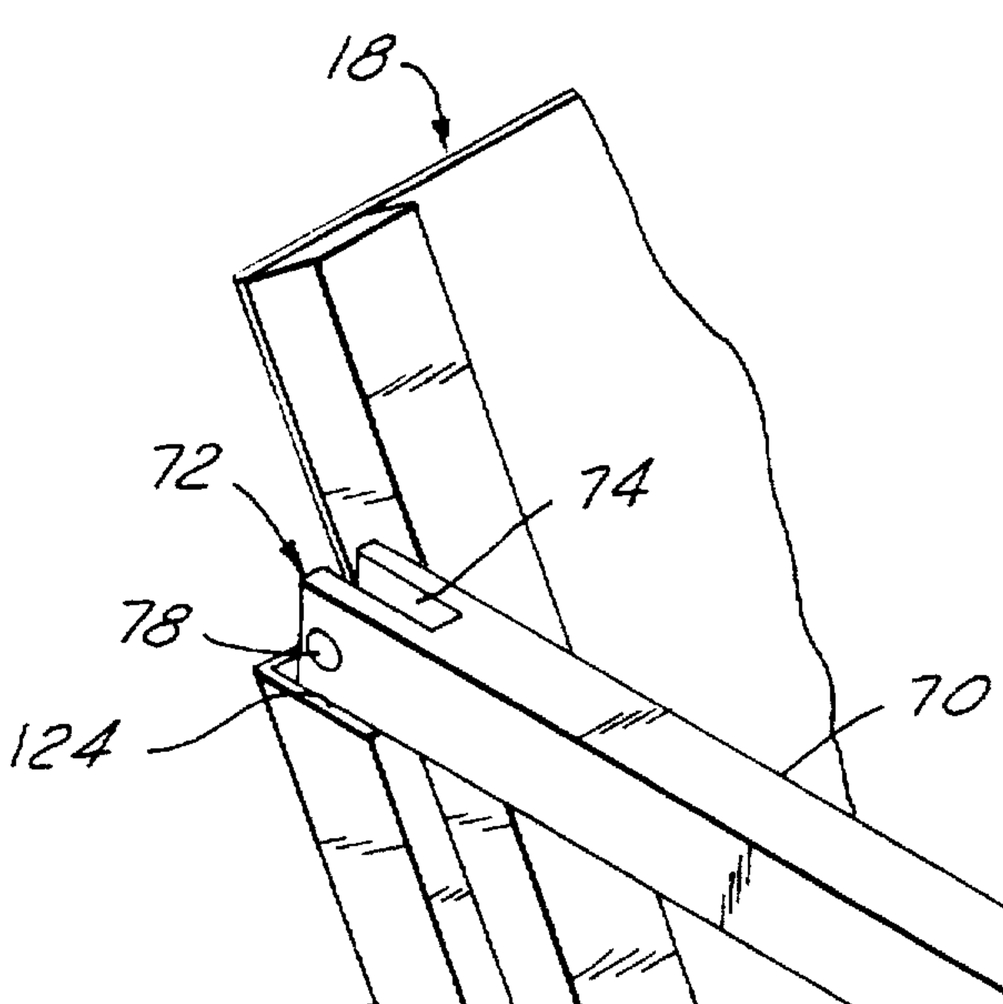
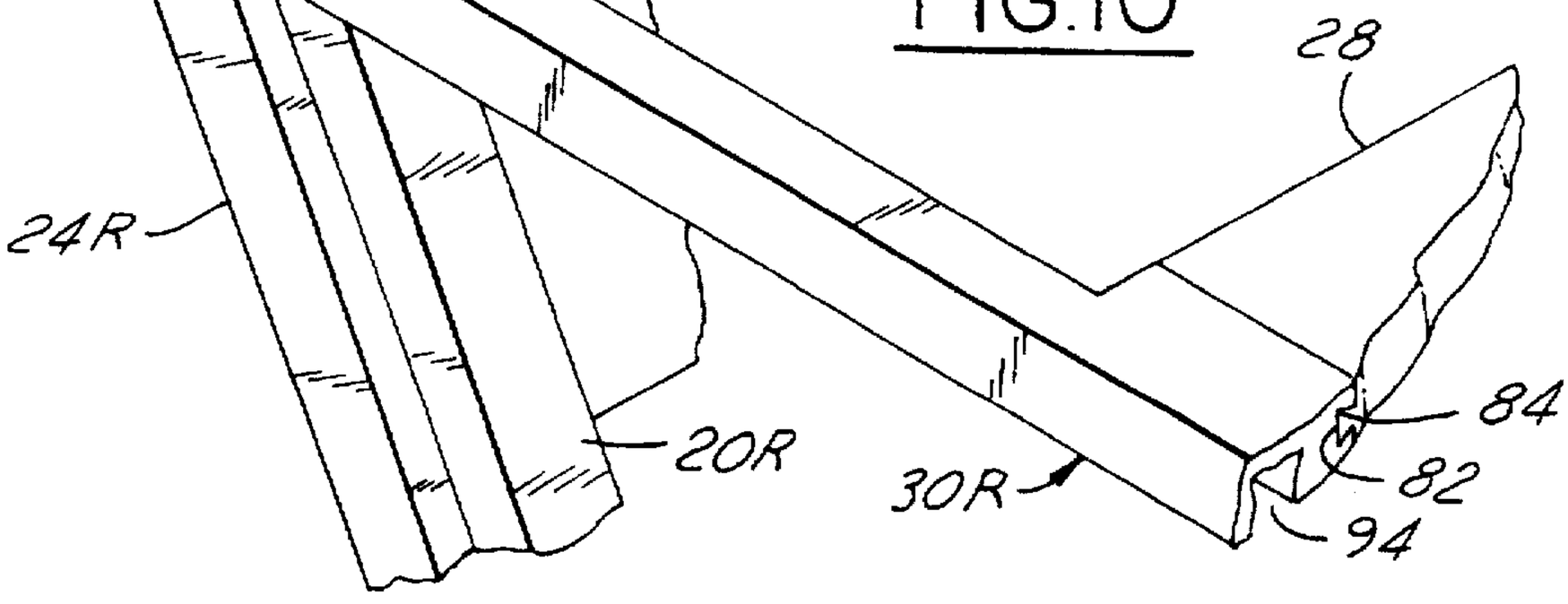


FIG.10



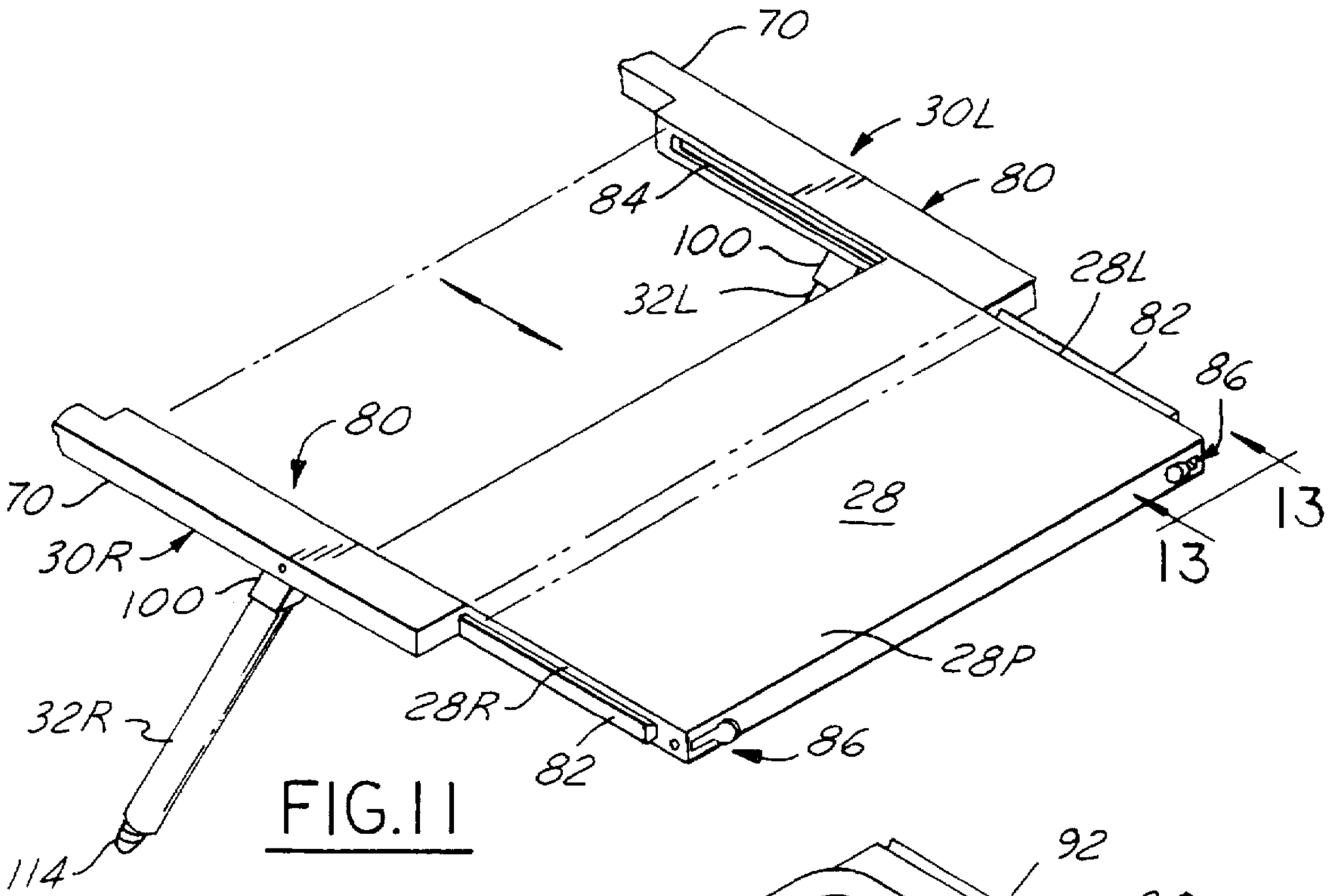


FIG.11

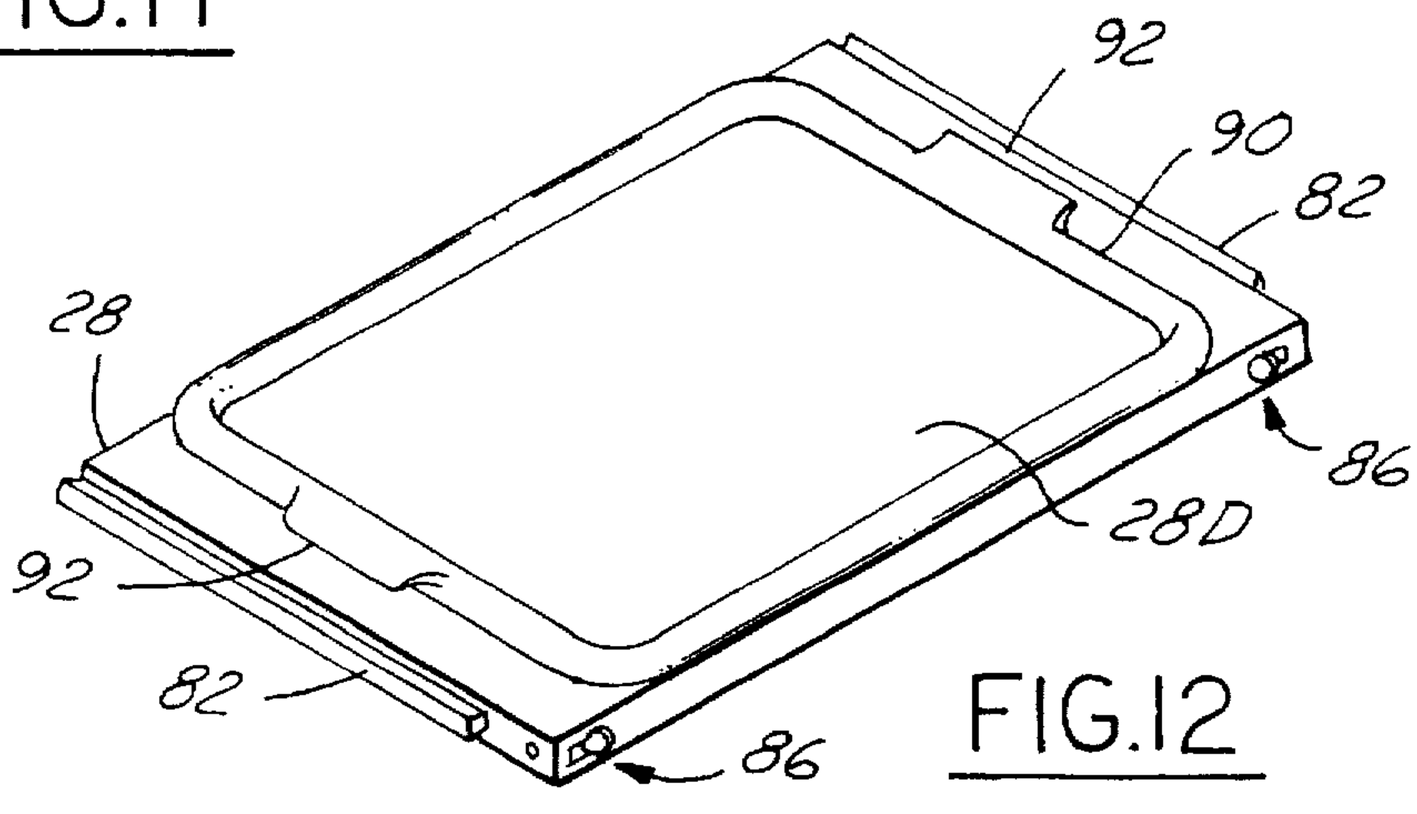


FIG.12

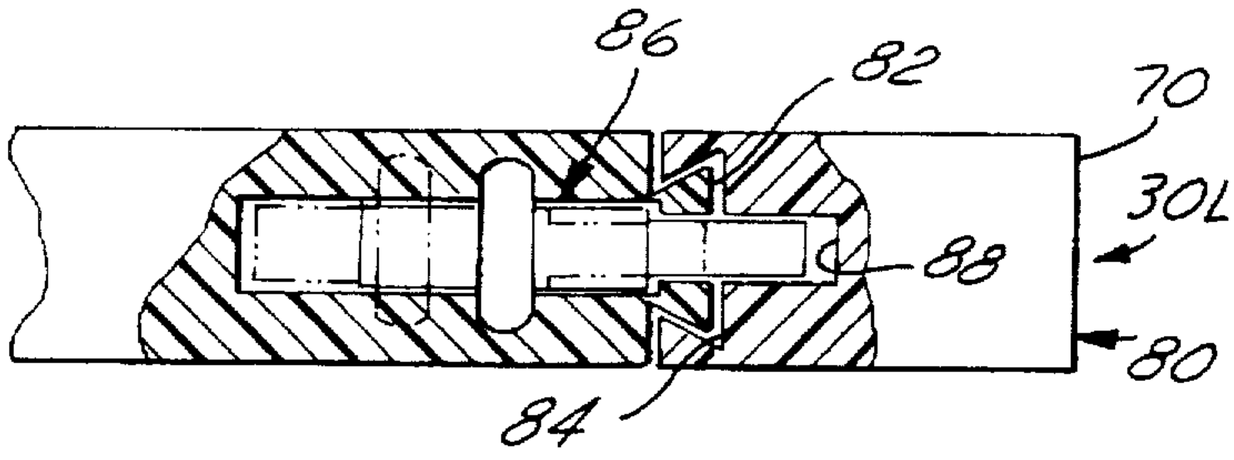


FIG.13

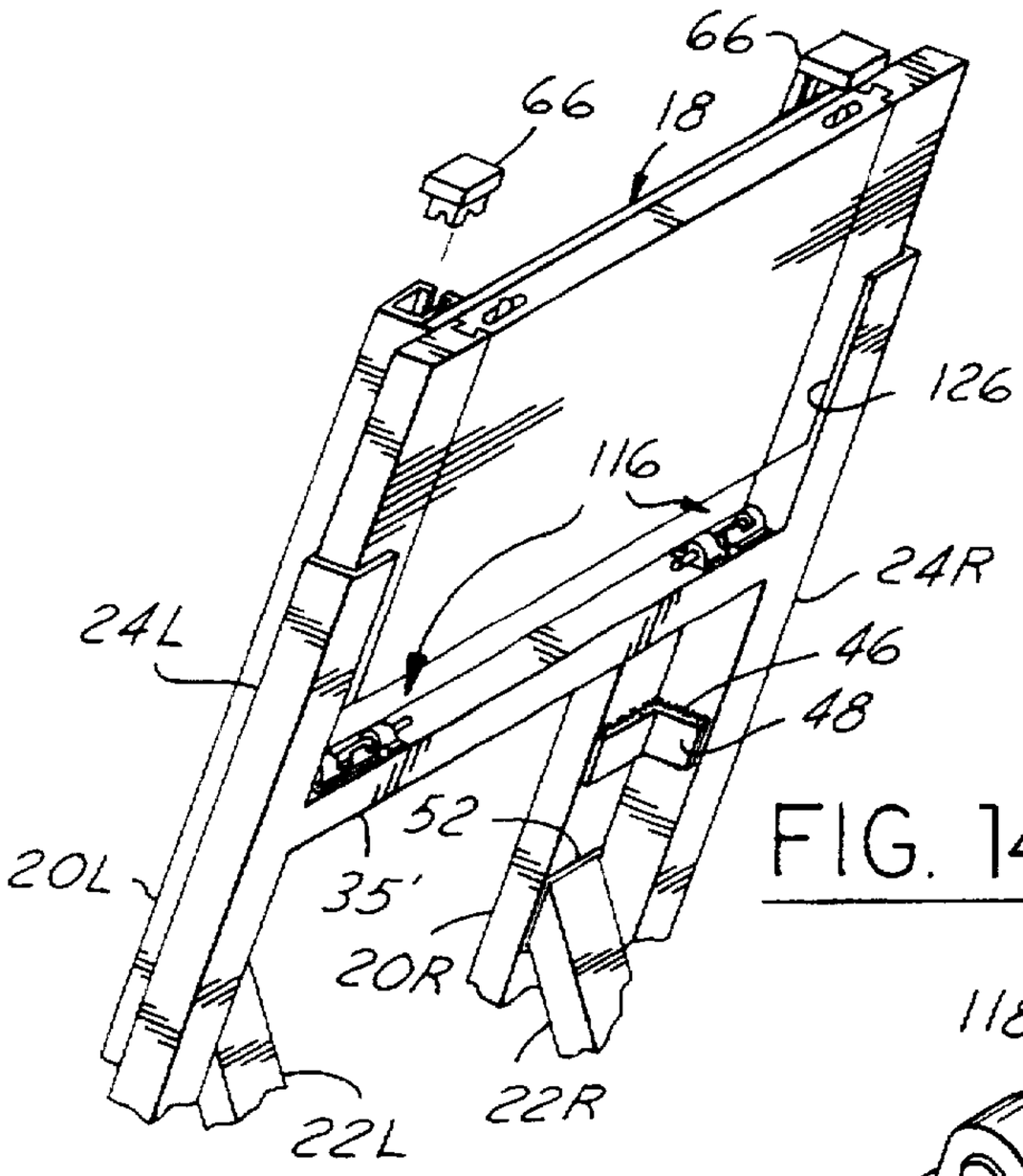


FIG. 14

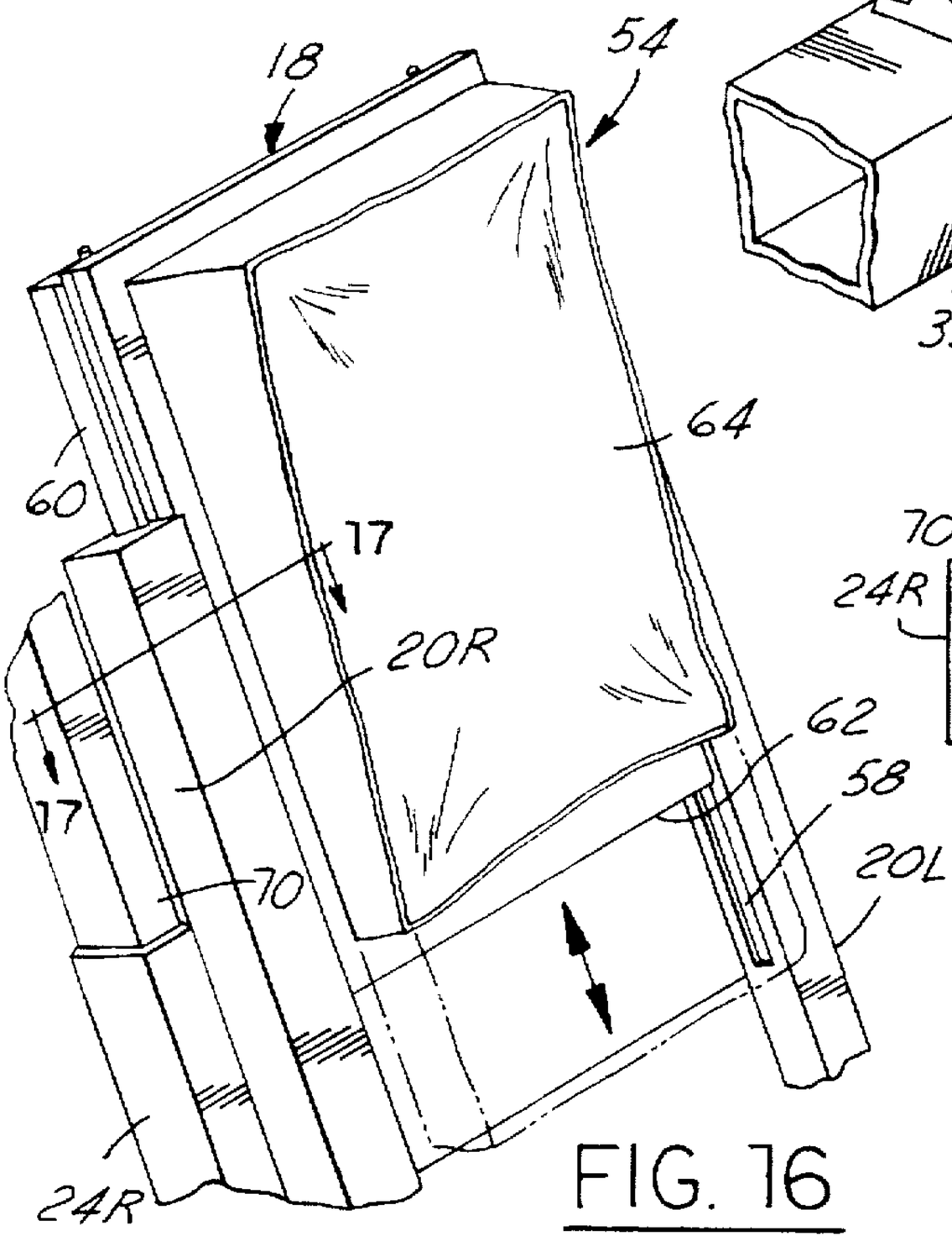


FIG. 16

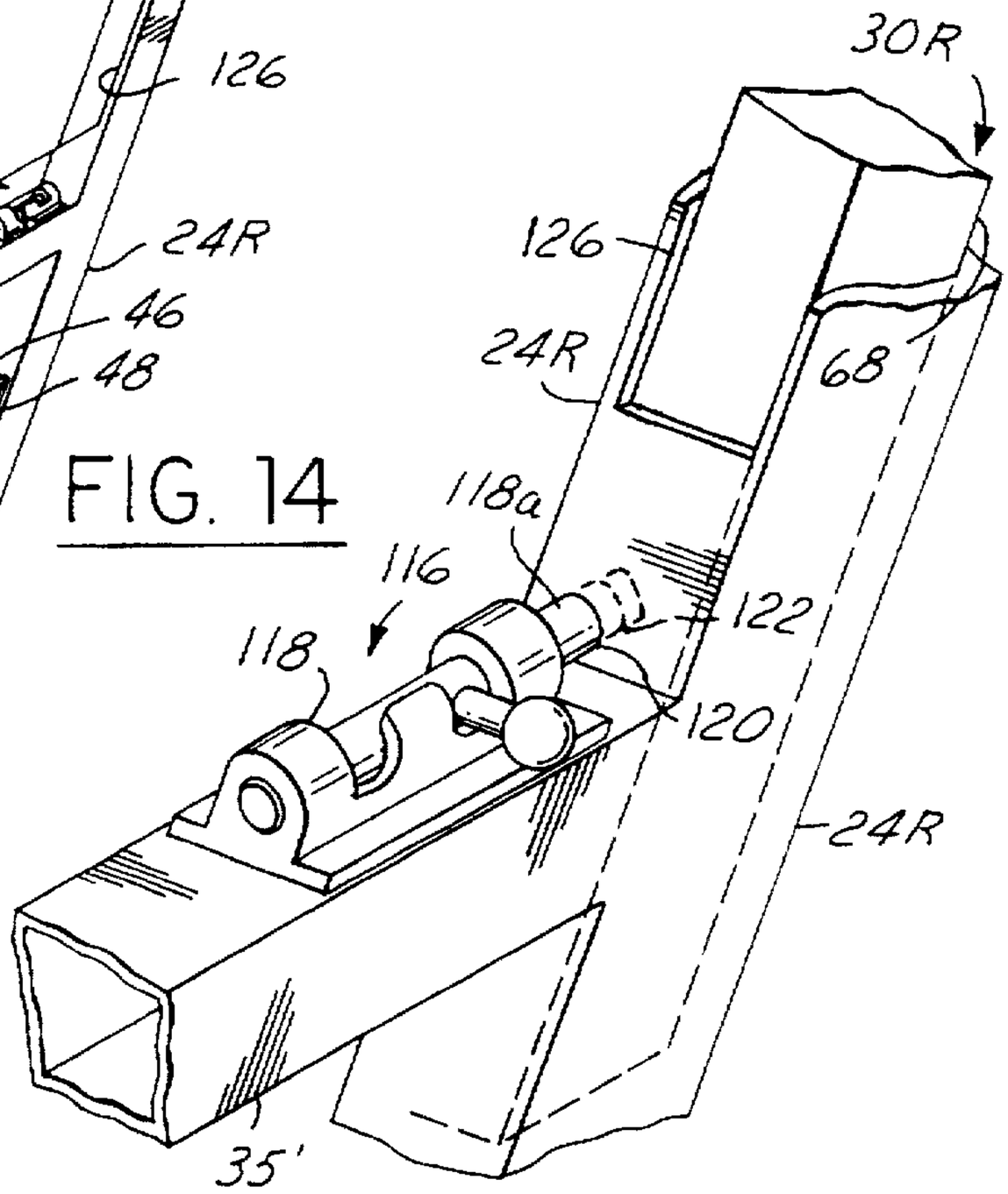


FIG. 15

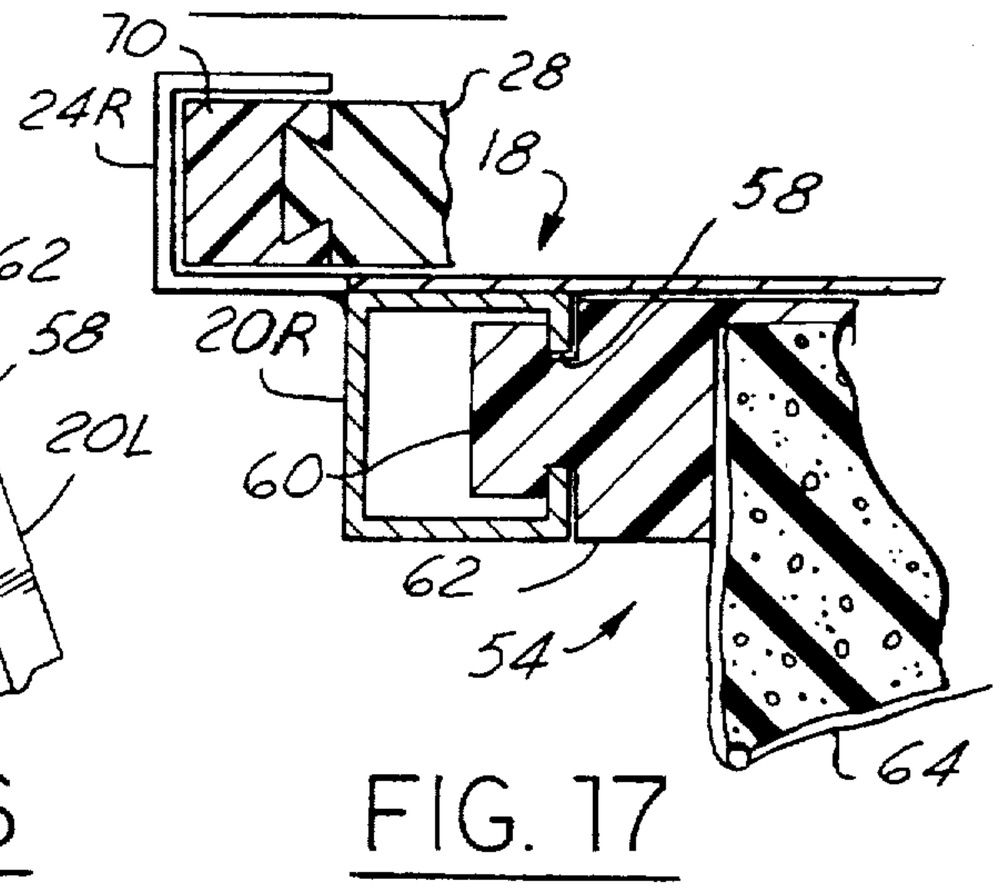


FIG. 17

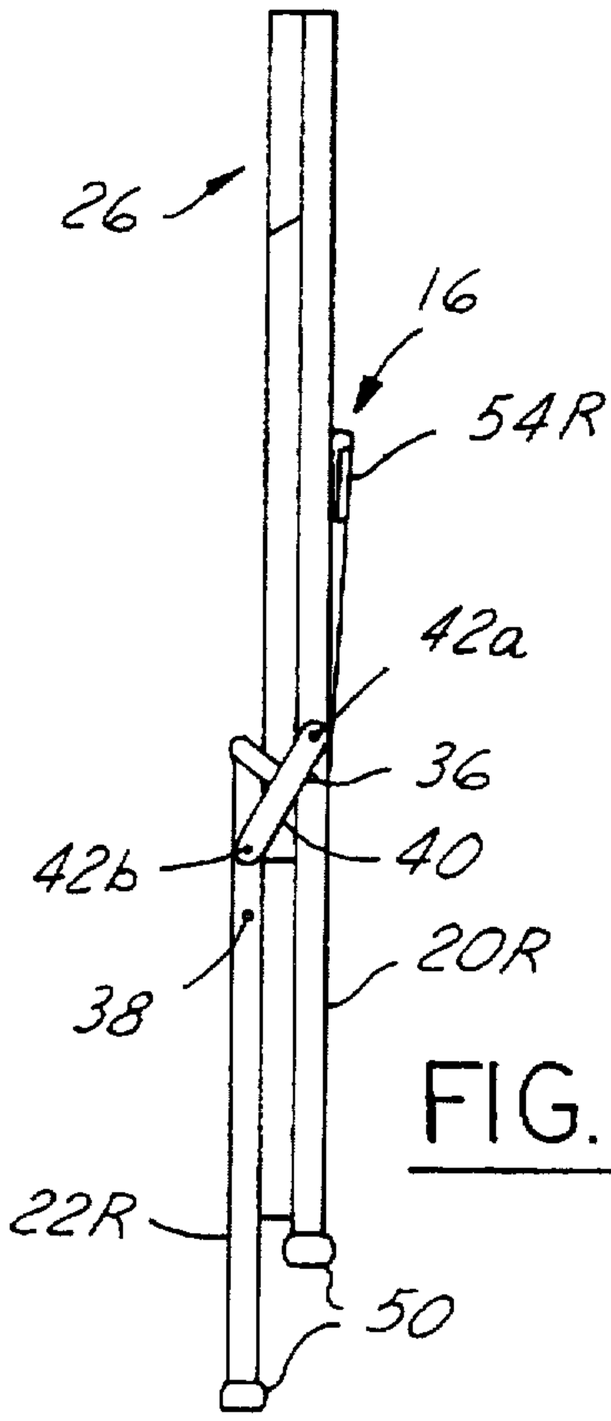


FIG. 20

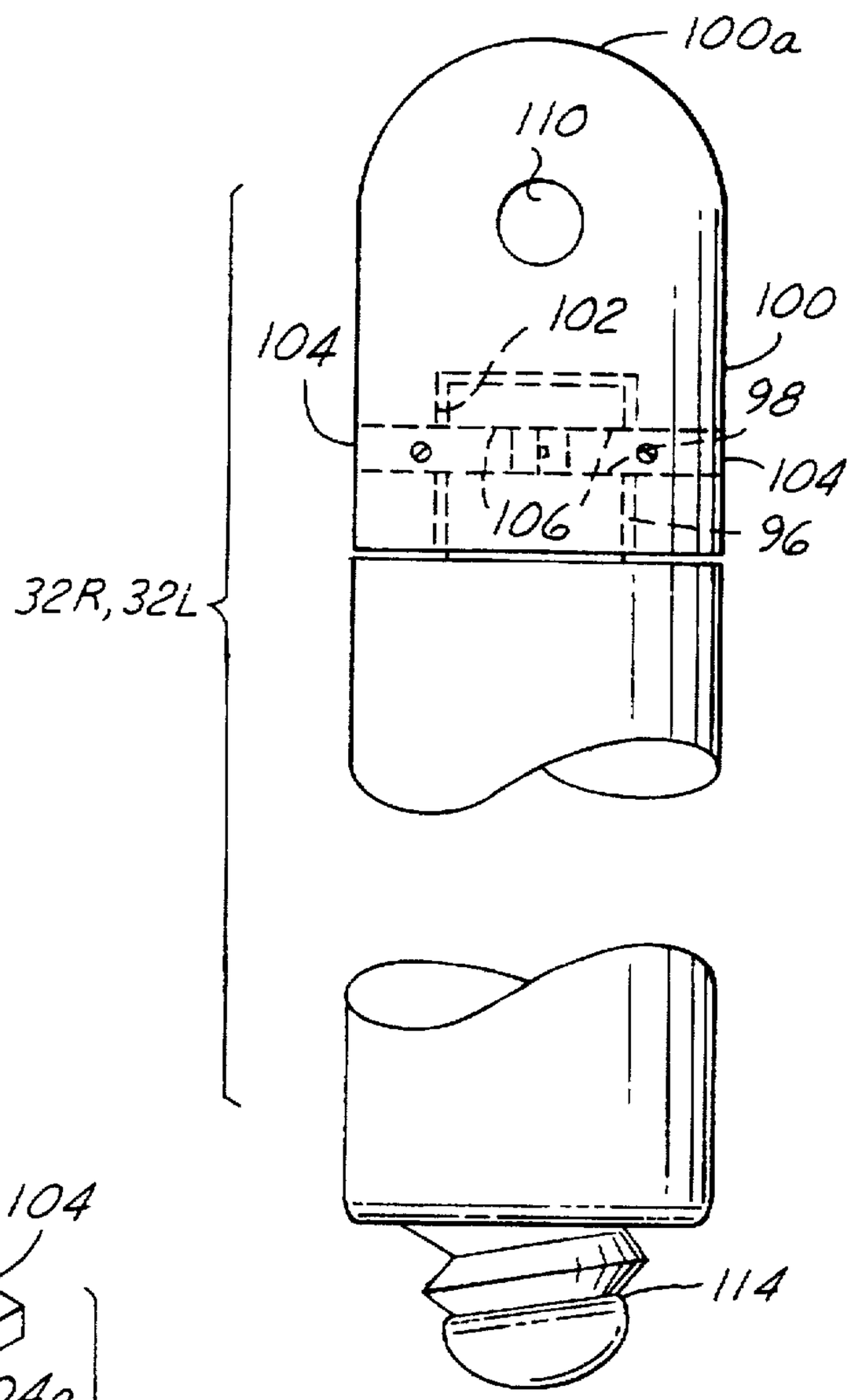


FIG. 18

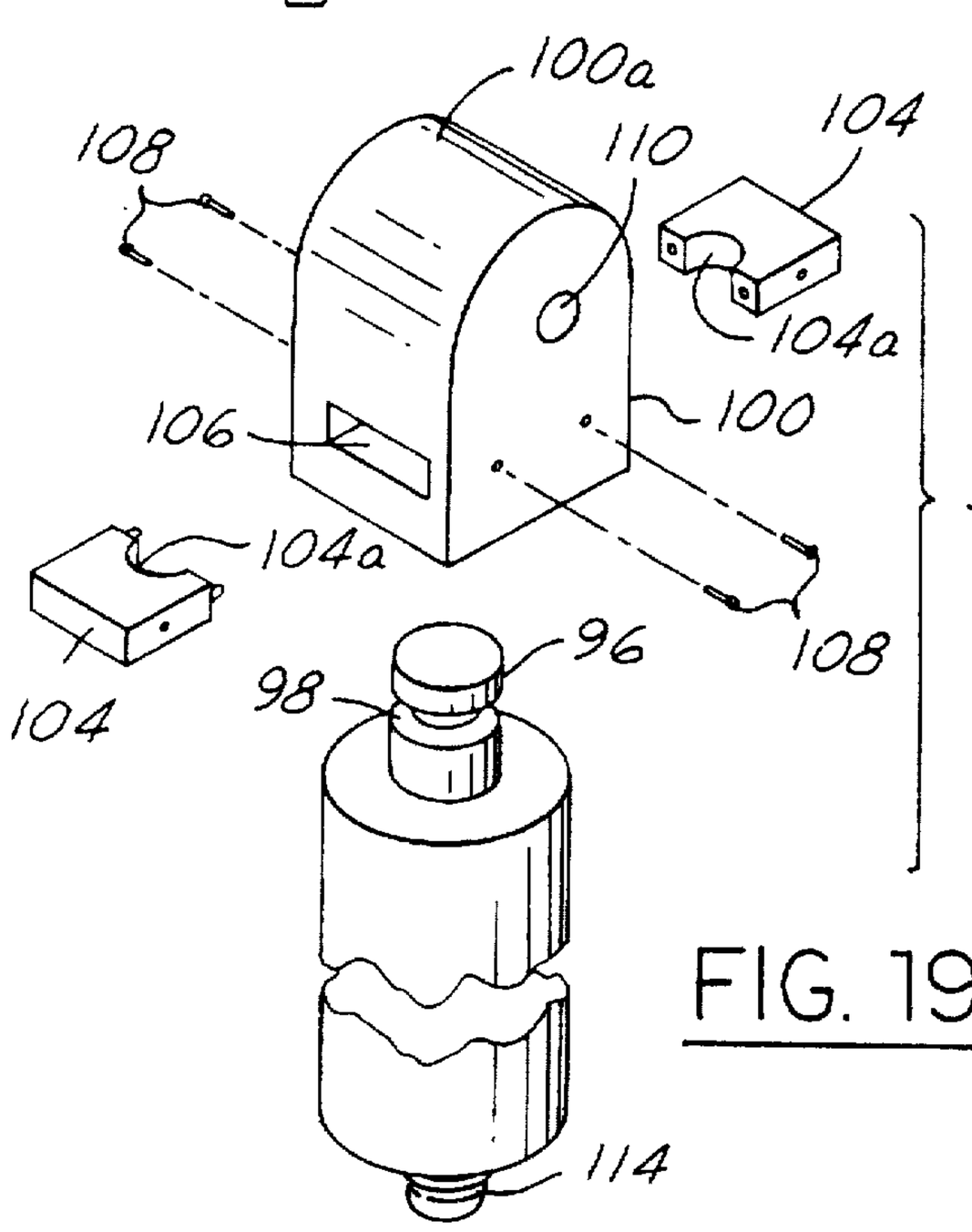


FIG. 19

CHAIR WITH SELF STORABLE TRAY

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to chairs and more particularly to chairs with trays. Still more particularly, the present invention relates to a chair having an integrated, self storable tray.

2. Description of the Prior Art

A chair with a tray is extremely useful because it facilitates a seated person to place objects near by, such as for example a meal, paperwork, crossword puzzle, etc. While a separate chair and tray may serve the same purpose, it is far more elegant and efficient if the two can be combined into one cooperating mechanism.

The idea of a chair with an interconnected tray has been known since at least the nineteenth century, such as for example in the form of high chairs for babies, wherein a pivotal tray is integrally connected to the chair (see for example U.S. Pat. Nos. Re. 7,582 and 202,788).

However, what remains needed in the art is a chair with an integral tray in which the tray is self storable when not in use. By "self storable" is meant that the tray is unobtrusively placed with respect to the chair, whereby the impression of an onlooker is that merely a chair is present, not a chair with a tray. Further, what is needed of such a chair with a tray would be ease of movement of the tray from a stored position to a deployed position, and vice versa.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is a chair with an integral tray in which the tray is self storable when not in use.

The chair with self storable tray according to the present invention is composed of a chair component and a tray component. The chair component is composed of a chair having a chair seat and chair back, a pair of front legs, a pair of rear legs, and is further composed of a sheath adjacent to, and parallel with, each of the front legs, respectively. In a preferred form of the chair component, the chair thereof is a folding chair, although a non-folding chair may be utilized. The tray component includes a pair of articulated arms, each composed of a first arm segment and a second arm segment which are mutually interconnected by a pivot. The first and second arm segments of each articulated arm is slidably received into a respective sheath. The tray component further includes a tray which slidably interconnects with both second arm segment of the articulated arms. Located within each of the second arm segments is a support rod which is pivotal from a received position to a support position wherein it is engaged with the chair component.

In operation, a user pulls upon the tray component so that it raises up from behind the chair back, wherein the articulated arms slide outwardly with respect to the sheaths until the pivots thereof are exposed. The user than pivots the second arm segments in relation to the first arm segments so that the tray is located at the front of the chair. As the second arm segments arcingly move from an orientation parallel with the chair back to an orientation parallel with the chair seat, the support rods fall to an orientation substantially perpendicular with respect to the chair seat under the action of gravity. The distal end of the support rods are then placed seatingly with respect to the chair component, so as to thereby provide support for the tray. The first arm segments are held with respect to the chair component so that they cannot be accidentally dislodged from the sheaths, such as for example by a user set retainer. The tray component is now in its deployed position. To sit upon the chair, the user slides the tray off the second arm segments, sits down on the chair and then slides the tray again onto the second arm segments. When the user wishes to get up from the chair, he or she need only slide the tray out from the second arm segments.

To return the tray component to its stored position, the user reverses the steps outlined above. It should be noted that when the tray component is in the stored position, the tray is located behind the chair back, very unobtrusively, wherein it is essentially out of sight. When the chair with self storable tray is configured so that the tray component is in the stored position, the chair component will function as a normal chair without any physical or aesthetic hindrance caused by the association of the tray component therewith.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a chair having an integrated tray, wherein the tray is self storing with respect to the chair.

These, and additional objects, advantages, features and benefits of the present invention will become apparent from the following specification.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the chair with self storing tray according to the present invention.

FIG. **2** is a cross-sectional view of a front leg and sheath of the chair with self storing tray according to the present invention, seen along line **2—2** in FIG. **1**.

FIG. **3** a partly sectional cross-sectional view of the connection of the tray and a second arm segment of the chair with self storing tray according to the present invention, seen along line **3—3** in FIG. **1**.

FIG. **4** is a side view of the chair with self storing tray according the present invention, wherein the tray component is shown at the stored position.

FIG. **5** is a side view of the chair with self storing tray according to the present invention, wherein the tray component is shown in an intermediate position between the stored and deployed positions.

FIG. **6** is a side view of the chair with self storing tray according to the present invention, wherein the tray component is shown at the deployed position.

FIG. **7** is a partly sectional view of a preferred folding mechanism of the chair with self storing tray according to the present invention, seen along line **7—7** in FIG. **4**.

FIG. **8** is a perspective, broken away view of the chair with self storing tray according to the present invention, wherein an articulated arm is shown with the tray component at the stored position.

FIG. **9** is a partly sectional side view of the chair with self storing tray according to the present invention, wherein an articulated arm is shown when the second arm segments of the tray component are initially being pivoted toward the deployed position.

FIG. **10** is a perspective, broken away view of the chair with self storing tray according to the present invention, wherein an articulated arm is shown when the tray component is at the deployed position.

FIG. **11** is a perspective view of the second arm segments and tray of the tray component, wherein the tray is shown being slide with respect to the second arm segments.

FIG. **12** is a perspective view of a preferred underside structure of the tray.

FIG. **13** is a partly section front view of a retainer mechanism for the tray and a second arm segment.

FIG. **14** is a rear perspective view of the chair with self storing tray according to the present invention, wherein the tray component is shown at the stored position.

FIG. **15** is a detail perspective view of a lock pin mechanism for the tray component with respect to the chair component.

FIG. **16** is a front perspective view of the chair with self storing tray according to the present invention, wherein a preferred form of chair back is depicted including a slidably interfaced cushion.

FIG. **17** is a partly sectional view of the sliding interface between the cushion and the chair back and the tray and the chair back, seen along line **17**—**17** in FIG. **16**.

FIG. **18** is a broken away side view of a support rod, showing the near end thereof which pivotally connects with a second arm segment, and showing the distal end thereof which threadably engages a threaded socket of the chair seat.

FIG. **19** is an exploded perspective view showing particularly the near end of a support rod.

FIG. **20** is a side view of the chair with self storing tray according to the present invention, shown in a folded configuration, wherein the tray component is at the stored position.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring now to the drawing, FIG. **1** generally depicts the chair with self storable tray **10** according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention. The chair with self storable tray **10** includes a chair component **12** having a chair **14** composed of a chair seat **16**, a chair back **18**, a right front leg **20R**, a left front leg **20L**, a right rear leg **22R** and a left rear leg **22L**. The chair component **12** further has a right sheath **24R** which is located adjoining the right front leg **20R** and a left sheath **24L** which is located adjoining the left front leg **20L**. The chair with self storable tray **10** further includes a tray component **26** having a tray **28**, a right articulated arm **30R** and a left articulated arm **30L**, wherein the tray is connected to the right and left articulated arms, and wherein right and left support rods **32R**, **32L** provide support for the tray in relation to the chair component **12**.

The chair with self storable tray **10** provides two operative positions for the tray component: a storage position, as shown at FIG. **4**, wherein the tray **28** is located unobtrusively behind the chair back **18** with the right and left articulated arms **30R**, **30L** slidably received inside the right and left sheaths **24R**, **24L**; and a deployed position, as shown at FIG. **6**, wherein the tray is located at the front of the chair substantially parallel with the chair seat **16**.

The preferred form of chair **14** of the chair component **12** is a folding chair, however, a non-folding chair may be used as well. Therefore, a folding chair will be detailed herein, although a non-folding chair should be understood to be substitutable therefor. The structural and functional characteristics of the preferred embodiment of the chair with self storable tray **10** will now be detailed with greater particularity.

The Seat Component

The chair seat **16** of the chair **14** is structured for a person to be seated thereupon, and preferably includes a seat pad **16***a*. The chair back **18** of the chair **14** is connected to the right and left front legs **20R**, **20L** and is structured for a seated person to place his or her back restably thereagainst.

The chair seat **16** is foldable in relation to the chair back **18** in a manner well known for conventional folding chairs. In this regard, the chair seat is pivotally connected to each of the right and left front legs **20R**, **20L** via front pivot pins **36**; and is pivotally connected to each of the right and left rear legs **22R**, **22L** via rear pivot pins **38**. Further in this regard, straps **40** are pivotally connected via pivot pins **42***a*, **42***b* respectively at each end thereof to respective right and left front legs **20R**, **20L** and right and left rear legs **22R**, **22L**. As shown at FIG. **7**, the straps **40** are spaced from the respective right or left front and rear legs via spacers **44***a*, **44***b* and optional bushings **45** in order to clear the respective right or left sheath **24R**, **24L**. The preferred form of pivot pins **36**, **38**, **42***a*, **42***b* are rivets.

As shown at FIGS. **1**, **2** and **7**, the right and left sheaths **24R**, **24L** are respectively connected to right and left front legs **20R**, **20L** via welding **46** and periodically spaced apart angles **48** which are themselves welded thereto.

The preferred material of construction of the right and left front legs **20R**, **20L**, the right and left rear legs **22R**, **22L** and the right and left sheaths **24R**, **24L** is metallic channel or tubing, such as for example steel or aluminum. Within the right and left sheaths **24R**, **24L** is an interior hollow H.

Resilient feet **50** are provided at the lower terminal ends of the right and left front legs and right and left rear legs. As shown at FIG. **6**, when the chair **14** is at the unfolded configuration, the upper end of the right and left rear legs **22R**, **22L** abut respective right and left front legs **20R**, **20L** preferably via a resilient abutment **52**.

Connected with the chair seat **16** are right and left rod flanges **54R**, **54L** for seatably receiving, respectively, a distal end of the support rods **32R**, **32L**. Cross supports **35** interconnect the right and left front legs **20R**, **20L**, as well as the right and left rear legs **22R**, **22L** to provide rigidity to the chair **14**. A cross-support **35'** is preferably provided between the right and left sheaths **24R**, **24L**, as well, also for rigidification.

In operation of the folding function of the chair **14** starting from the unfolded configuration as shown at FIG. **4**, the user grabs both the chair seat **16** and the chair back **18** and then pulls on the chair seat pivotally (upwardly) toward the seat back, as one would normally do with a conventional folding chair. The chair seat **16** then pivots on pivot pins **36**, **38** while the straps **40** pivot on pivot pins **42***a*, **42***b* until the chair seat is adjacent the chair back **18**, as depicted at FIG. **20**. Preferably at the folded configuration, which is shown at FIG. **20**, the right and left rod flanges **54R**, **54L** abut respective right and left front legs **20R**, **20L**.

As shown at FIGS. **16** and **17**, the chair **14** may include a slidably removable cushion member **56** at the chair back **18**. In this regard, an upper end portion of the right and left front legs **20R**, **20L** at the chair back has a slot **58** into which a T-shaped nib **60** of the backing **62** of the cushion member **56** slides. A padded cushion **64** is attached to the backing **62**, and the cushion may be angled in order to provide comfortable support to a seated person's back. As shown at FIG. **14**, the upper ends of the right and left front legs **20R**, **20L** are capped via removable plastic caps **66**.

The right and left sheaths **24R**, **24L** are oriented substantially parallel to the chair back **18**, whereat an upper end portion thereof is provided with slots **126**, shown at FIGS. **14** and **15**, for receiving therein a portion of the tray component **26**, as will become clear hereinbelow.

The Tray Component

As shown best at FIGS. **9** and **10**, the right and left articulated arms **30R**, **30L** of the tray component **26** each

have a first arm segment **68**, a second arm segment **70** and a pivot **72** which pivotally interconnects the first and second arm segments. In this regard, the pivots **72** are characterized by a clevis **74** formed in the rear end of the second arm segment **70**, a lug **76** which fits into the clevis, and a pivot pin **78** (preferably a rivet) passing collectively therethrough.

The entire first arm segment **68** and at least a major portion of the second arm segment **70** (inclusive of the pivot **72** thereof) are structured in relation to the interior hollow H of the right and left sheaths **24R**, **24L** so as to be slidably received therein. Accordingly, the articulated right arm is slidably received into the interior hollow H of the right sheath **24R** and the left articulated arm **30L** is slidably received into the interior hollow H of the left sheath **24L**.

A forward end portion **80** of the second arm segments **70** is slidably connected with the tray **28**. In this regard as best shown at FIGS. **3** and **13**, the right and left sides **28R**, **28L** of the tray **28** are provided with a dovetail **82**. The dovetail **82** slidably engages a dovetailed slot **84** formed in each of the second arm segments **70**. As shown at FIG. **13**, a lock pin mechanism **86** carried by the tray **28** adjacent the right and left sides **28R**, **28L** thereof has a bolt which is user slidable into a bore **88** at the dovetailed slot **84** to thereby selectively hold the tray with respect to the right and left articulated arms **30R**, **30L**.

As comparatively depicted at FIGS. **11** and **12**, an upperside **28P** of the tray **28** is flat. The upperside **28P** is shaped for writing, reading, hobby work, etc. using the tray **28**. The underside **28D** of the tray **28** has a tray shaped rim **90** for trapping liquid thereinside (such as if a drink was spilled) with handles **92**. The underside **28D** is shaped for use when eating meals with the tray **28**.

The second arm segments **70** are provided with a rod receptacle **94**, wherein the support rods **32R**, **32L** are entirely receivable thereinside. Accordingly, when a right or left support rod is received within its rod receptacle, the second arm segment **70** thereof is able to be received thereat into the interior hollow H of the right or left sheaths **24R**, **24L**.

The near ends of the right and left support rods **32R**, **32L** are rotatably connected to respective second arm segments **70** at the rod receptacle **94** thereof. As shown at FIGS. **18** and **19**, the near end of each of the right and left support rods **32R**, **32L** includes a rod stud **96** having an annular slot **98** and further includes a rod hub **100**. The rod hub **100** has a blind bore **102** which receives the rod stud **96**. Keepers **104** slide into lateral slots **106** formed in the rod hub **100** and have a concave front surface **104***a* which interferingly engages the annular slot **98**. The keepers **104** are held in place by screws **108**. The rod hub **100** has a semicircular upper face **100***a* and a pivot hole **110** radially disposed with respect to the semicircular upper face. As shown best at FIG. **3**, a threaded bolt **112** passes through the second arm segment **70** and the pivot hole **110** to thereby pivotally attach the right or left support rod **32R**, **32L** respectively thereto via a nut threaded thereon.

In order to provide assured seating of the distal end of the right and left support rods **32R**, **32L** with respect to the chair seat **16**, the right and left rod flanges **54R**, **54L** are provided with a threaded opening, and the distal end of the right and left support rods are provided with a complimentarily threaded finger **114**.

When the right and left articulated arms **30R**, **30L** are pulled outwardly from the hollow interior H of the respective right and left sheaths **24R**, **24L**, the first arm segment **68** still has a considerable length thereof located therein even when the pivot **72** is exposed. Still, in order to prevent the first arm segments **68** from dislodging from respective right and left sheaths **24R**, **24L**, a retainer **116** is provided. As shown at FIG. **15**, a preferred retainer **116** is a sliding latch **118** mounted to the cross support **35'** which has a bolt **118***a* which is selectively receivable through a hole **120** in the respective right or left sheath **24R**, **24L** and into a hole **122** in the respective first arm segment **68**.

The preferred material of construction of the right and left articulated arms **30R**, **30L**, the right and left support rods **32R**, **32L** and the tray **28** is a structurally strong, impact resistant plastic, although other structural materials may be used, such as for example aluminum.

Operation

Operational details will be recounted beginning with the chair with self storage tray **10** in its folded configuration, as shown at FIG. **20**. The user grasps the chair back **18** and the chair seat **16** and thereupon causes the seat to pivot to the unfolded orientation shown in FIG. **4**. The chair **14** may now be used as a regular folding chair for seating purposes. When the user decides to again place the chair into the folded configuration, the user again grasps the chair seat and chair back and causes the chair seat to pivot to the chair back, as depicted at FIG. **20**.

Should the user wish to use the tray component **26** the following procedure is used. With the chair in the unfolded configuration of FIG. **4**, the user grasps the tray **28** and pulls upon the tray component, whereupon the right and left articulated arms **30R**, **30L** slide outwardly in relation to the right and left sheaths **24R**, **24L**, as shown at FIG. **5**. When the pivots **72** become exposed, the user then rotates the second arm segments **70** so that the tray **28** becomes substantially parallel to the chair seat, as shown at FIG. **6**. As the second arm segments are pivoted, the support rods **32R**, **32L** fall to an orientation substantially perpendicular with respect to the chair seat by the action of gravity. The threaded fingers **114** of the right and left support rods **32R**, **32L** are then rotated with respect to the chair component (enabled by the rod hub **100**) and thereby threadably engaged with the threaded opening at the right and left rod flanges **54R**, **54L**. It should be noted in this regard, that it is preferred for the upper end **124** of the right and left sheaths to be angled so as to be parallel with the orientation of the second arm segment when in the deployed position, whereby it restably abuts the second arm segments at this position (see for example FIG. **6**). Now the tray **28** is supported by the upper ends **124** of the right and left sheaths and the right and left support rods. The user then actuates the retainer **16** to lock the first arm segments **68** at this position. The tray component is now in its deployed position.

To sit upon the chair, the user releases the lock pin mechanisms **86** and then slides the tray off the second arm segments, sits down on the chair, slides the tray again onto the second arm segments, and then engages the lock pin mechanisms. When the user wishes to get up from the chair, he or she need only slide the tray out from the second arm segments. To return the tray component to its stored position, the user reverses the steps outlined above.

When the tray component is in the stored position, the tray is located behind the chair back via slidable passage into the slot **126** at the upper end portion of the right and left sheaths **24R**, **24L** (see FIGS. **14** and **15**), very unobtrusively, wherein it is essentially out of sight. When the chair with self storable tray is configured so that the tray component is in the stored position, the chair component will function as a

normal chair without any physical or aesthetic hindrance caused by the association of the tray component therewith.

To those skilled in the art to which this invention appertains, the above described preferred embodiment may be subject to change or modification. Such change or modification can be carried out without departing from the scope of the invention, which is intended to be limited only by the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A chair with self storing tray comprising:

a chair component comprising:

a chair; and

sheath means connected with said chair for providing an interior hollow; and

a tray component comprising:

a tray; and

articulated arm means for supporting said tray with respect to said chair component; wherein said articulated arm means is slidably receivable with respect to said interior hollow of said sheath means;

wherein said tray is placed into a stored position behind said chair by slidably receiving said articulated arm means into said sheath means, and wherein said tray is placed into a deployed position in front of said chair by selectively sliding said articulated arm means outwardly from said sheath means and articulating sailed articulated arm means.

2. The chair with self storing tray of claim **1**, wherein said articulated arm means comprises:

a right articulated arm comprising:

a first right arm segment;

a second right arm segment; and

right pivot means for pivotally connecting said first and second right arm segments; and

a left arm segment comprising:

a first left arm segment;

a second left arm segment; and

left pivot means for pivotally connecting said first and second left arm segments;

wherein said tray is connected to said second right and left arm segments.

3. The chair with self storing tray of claim **2**, further comprising selective release means f or removably connecting said tray to said second right and left arm segments.

4. The chair with self storing tray of claim **3**, wherein said sheath means comprises:

a right sheath having a first portion of said interior hollow into which said right articulated arm is slidably receivable; and

a left sheath having said second portion of said interior hollow into which said left articulated arm is slidably receivable.

5. The chair with self storing tray of claim **4**, wherein said chair comprises:

a chair seat;

a chair back connected with said chair seat;

a right front leg connected to at least one of said chair seat and said chair back;

a left front leg connected to at least one of said chair seat and said chair back;

a right rear leg connected to at least one of said chair seat and said chair back; and

a left rear leg connected to at least one of said chair seat and said chair back.

6. The chair with self storing tray of claim **5**, wherein said right and left sheaths are oriented substantially parallel with respect to said seat back.

7. The chair with self storing tray of claim **6**, further comprising tray support means connected with said articulated arm means for supporting said tray with respect to said chair component when in the deployed position.

8. The chair with self storing tray of claim **7**, wherein said tray support means comprises:

a right support rod;

right second arm segment receptacle means formed in said right second arm segment for receiving therein said right support rod;

means for pivotally connecting said right support rod to said right second arm segment receptacle means;

means for enabling rotation of at least a portion of said right support rod with respect to said right arm segment receptacle means;

right flange means connected with said chair for supportably receiving said right support rod;

a left support rod;

left second arm segment receptacle means formed in said left second arm segment for receiving therein said left support rod;

means for pivotally connecting said left support rod to said left second arm segment receptacle means;

means for enabling rotation of at least a portion of said left support rod with respect to said left arm segment receptacle means; and

left flange means connected with said chair for supportably receiving said left support rod

wherein when said tray is at the deployed position said right second arm segment abuts in supportive relation to said right sheath and wherein said left second arm segment abuts in supportive relation to said left sheath.

9. The chair with self storing tray of claim **8**, wherein said right support rod is threadably engageable with respect to said right flange means; and wherein said left support rod is threadably engageable with respect to said left flange means.

10. The chair with self storing tray of claim **9**, wherein said chair is a folding chair, wherein said chair further comprises pivot means connected to said right and left front legs, said right and left rear legs and said chair seat for pivotably connecting said chair seat with respect to said chair back.

11. The chair with self storing tray of claim **9**, wherein said tray has an upper side and an opposite underside; said upperside having a flat surface, said underside having rim means for retaining liquids within a predetermined area of said underside, said rim means having handle means f or a user to graspingly carry said tray.

12. The chair with self storing tray of claim **9**, further comprising retainer means for preventing said right first arm segment from outwardly sliding from said right sheath beyond a predetermined length, and for preventing said left first arm segment from outwardly sliding from said left sheath beyond said predetermined length.

13. The chair with self storing tray of claim **9**, wherein when said tray is at the stored position said tray is located substantially immediately behind said seat back.

14. The chair with self storing tray of claim **9**, wherein said right sheath is connected to and oriented parallel with said right front leg, and said left sheath is connected to and oriented parallel with said left front leg.

15. A chair with self storing tray comprising:

a chair component comprising:

a chair; and

sheath means connected with said chair for providing an interior hollow; and

a tray component comprising:

a tray;

articulated arm means for supporting said tray with respect to said chair component, wherein said articulated arm means is slidably receivable with respect to said interior hollow of said sheath means, said articulated arm means comprising:

a right articulated arm comprising a first right arm segment; a second right arm segment; and right pivot means for pivotally connecting said first and second right arm segments; and

a left arm segment comprising a first left arm segment; a second left arm segment; and left pivot means for pivotally connecting said first and second left arm segments;

wherein said tray is connected to said second right and left arm segments;

selective release means for removably connecting said tray to said second right and left arm segments; and

tray support means connected with said articulated arm means for supporting said tray with respect to said chair component when in the deployed position;

wherein said tray is placed into a stored position behind said chair by slidably receiving said articulated arm means into said sheath means, and wherein said tray is placed into a deployed position in front of said chair by selectively sliding said articulated arm means outwardly from said sheath means and articulating said articulated arm means.

16. The chair with self storing tray of claim 15, wherein said tray support means comprises:

a right support rod;

right second arm segment receptacle means formed in said right second arm segment for receiving therein said right support rod;

means for pivotally connecting said right support rod to said right second arm segment receptacle means;

means for enabling rotation of at least a portion of said right support rod with respect to said right arm segment receptacle means;

right flange means connected with said chair for supportably receiving said right support rod;

a left support rod;

left second arm segment receptacle means formed in said left second arm segment for receiving therein said left support rod;

means for pivotally connecting said left support rod to said left second arm segment receptacle means;

means for enabling rotation of at least a portion of said left support rod with respect to said left arm segment receptacle means; and

left flange means connected with said chair for supportably receiving said left support rod;

wherein when said tray is at the deployed position said right second arm segment abuts in supportive relation to said right sheath and wherein said left second arm segment abuts in supportive relation to said left sheath.

17. The chair with self storing tray of claim 16, wherein said sheath means comprises:

a right sheath having a first portion of said interior hollow into which said right articulated arm is slidably receivable; and

a left sheath having said second portion of said interior hollow into which said left articulated arm is slidably receivable;

wherein said right and left sheaths are oriented substantially parallel with respect to said seat back.

18. The chair with self storing tray of claim 17, wherein said right support rod is threadably engageable with respect to said right flange means; and wherein said left support rod is threadably engageable with respect to said left flange means.

19. The chair with self storing tray of claim 18, further comprising retainer means for preventing said right first arm segment from outwardly sliding from said right sheath beyond a predetermined length, and for preventing said left first arm segment from outwardly sliding from said left sheath beyond said predetermined length.

20. A folding chair with self storing tray comprising:

a chair component comprising:

a folding chair having a chair seat, a chair back leg means for supporting the chair, and pivot means for pivotably connecting said chair seat with respect to said chair back; and

sheath means connected with said chair for providing an interior hollow; and

a tray component comprising:

a tray;

articulated arm means for supporting said tray with respect to said chair component, wherein said articulated arm means is slidably receivable with respect to said interior hollow of said sheath means, said articulated arm means comprising:

a right articulated arm comprising a first right arm segment; a second right arm segment; and right pivot means for pivotally connecting said first and second right arm segments;

a left arm segment comprising a first left arm segment; a second left arm segment; and left pivot means for pivotally connecting said first and second left arm segments;

wherein said tray is connected to said second right and left arm segments; and

selective release means for removably connecting said tray to said second right and left arm segments;

tray support means connected with said articulated arm means for supporting said tray with respect to said chair component when in the deployed position;

wherein said tray is placed into a stored position behind said chair by slidably receiving said articulated arm means into said sheath means, and wherein said tray is placed into a deployed position in front of said chair by selectively sliding said articulated arm means outwardly from said sheath means and articulating said articulated arm means.

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